

still write a check for their health care, just like they did when my dad was in practice back in the 1950s. Some doctors give of their time willingly. They give charitable care. We never account for that in any of the demographic studies that we do. But half of the health care in this country, the dollars spent on health care in this country, 50 cents out of every health care dollar originates right here in the House of Representatives.

Are we doing a good job with what we already have? Might we not be asked to improve what we are doing in those programs before we are asking you to let us take over even more of how we deliver health care in this country? It is certainly food for thought as we wrap up this year in the United States Congress.

I would emphasize one more time, Mr. Speaker, and again I will address my remarks to you, if I could talk directly to Members who are involved in leadership on both sides of this House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that they seriously look at fixing the problem with physician reimbursement rates that we are coming up on now like a freight train and it is going to have a significant negative impact on the care rendered to our seniors in the Medicare program.

□ 1700

But we have got to pay attention to what we are doing for our veterans. We have got to pay attention with the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Again, lots of areas for improvement, I think, before we talk about expanding the reach and grasp of the Federal Government.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the earlier order of the House granting the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) 5-minute Special Order speech is vacated.

There was no objection.

THE LIBERTY ALLIANCE: CHAMPIONING LIBERTY AND DIGNITY IN OUR HUMAN COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, in the immediate aftermath of World War II, at the commencement of our Cold War against the Soviet Union and international communism, in his blunt, son of the middle border manner, President Harry Truman enunciated the eponymous doctrine he would apply to this challenge during his March 12, 1947, address to a joint session of Congress.

"I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted

subjugation by armed minorities or outside pressures. I believe that we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way. I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes.

"One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and of religion, and freedom from political oppression. The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly opposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms.

"The seeds of totalitarian regimes are nurtured by misery and want. They spread and grow in the evil soil of poverty and strife. They reach their full growth when the hope of a people for a better life has died. We must keep that hope alive.

"The free peoples of the world look to us for support in maintaining their freedoms. If we falter in our leadership, we may endanger the peace of the world and we shall surely endanger the welfare of our own nation."

Regarding the Soviet Union, in the face of experts' arguments, Stalin's imperialist dictatorship should be psychologically understood and indulged to purchase an illusory peace, Truman morally comprehended this evil empire's threat to the United States and the Free World. Through the United Nations, multilateral and bilateral treaties, his strategy to contain and defeat inhuman communism called for the United States to champion the cause of human liberty and dignity.

We heeded his call, and, through American leadership and sacrifice, the Soviets' evil empire imploded and Eastern Europeans and the Russian people experienced a new birth of freedom. This victory of humanity over tyranny must not lull us into the conceit liberty is now without enemies or invincible in their face. For we must always remember our Founders' caution: "We will give you a republic, if you can keep it." Today, as we confront a barbarous terrorist enemy and the rise of another Communist superstate, China, it is wise to reexamine President Truman's sound strategy, revise it as appropriate to our circumstances, and defeat the enemies of our free Republic and the free world.

A revision I propose is this: We can no longer rely on any part on the United Nations for the preservation of American or human freedom. For global altruists afflicted with cognitive dissonance, in a likely futile effort, let us remind them of the U.N.'s recent, execrable acts against the human liberty and dignity it was founded to defend.

The U.N. humanitarian aid program, Oil-for-Food, provided little bread for Iraqis but large bribes for Hussein, his

regime, U.N. cronies, and likely terrorists. Estimates are Saddam's dictatorship siphoned \$10 billion from the program through oil smuggling and systematic thievery, and illegal payments and kickbacks from international contractors, all beneath the nonjudgmental gaze of U.N. bureaucrats who were nevertheless judged culpable for gross incompetence, mismanagement and potential complicity with Saddam in perpetrating the biggest corruption scandal in human history.

Secondly, widespread instances and allegations of the sexual exploitation of Congolese women, girls, and boys were leveled against the U.N. personnel sent to protect them. The particulars of this barbaric sexual abuse are unfit for this forum.

Thirdly, the U.N.'s waste, fraud, and malfeasance has turned tawdry graft into a global art, an epic debacle of avarice less worthy of journalist than a satirist. As one U.N. peacekeeping staffer informed the Inter Press Service News Agency: "Corruption and kickbacks were taken for granted in most overseas operations." Though not in a New York Federal Court where, on June 7, the former top U.N. procurement official, Sanjaya Bahel, was convicted of steering \$100 million worth of U.N. peacekeeping contracts to the family of a personal friend. U.N. officials refuse to explain how Bahel was twice exonerated by its internal investigations, while a New York jury convicted him of fraud and corruption in half a day.

These are not the acts of the U.N. envisioned by President Franklin Roosevelt in his March 1, 1945, address before the Congress on the Yalta Conference.

"A common ground for peace ought to spell the end of the system of unilateral action, the exclusive alliances, the spheres of influence, the balances of power, and all other expedients that have been tried for centuries and have always failed. We propose to substitute for all these a universal organization in which all peace-loving organizations will finally have a chance to join."

Weighed against Roosevelt's words, the U.N. is deemed wanting, and the reason is revealed. A universal organization will include peace-loving nations and tyrannical regimes.

Consequently, all of the exclusive alliances, spheres of influence, balances of power, and all other expedients which occurred and failed for centuries outside of a universal organization have now occurred and failed this century inside the United Nations.

Unlike Roosevelt, Truman viewed the U.N. as a future hope, not an immediate panacea. Though personally honest, Truman was versed in Boss Tom Pendergast's political machine, and so understood the U.N.'s membership's math boded ill for free people. Today, according to Freedom House, of the 192 U.N. member states, 89 are fully free and 103 are not. Thus, a solid majority of 54 percent of member states know

liberty directly threatens their survival, which requires the suppression of their own peoples and, through their U.N. membership, the entire human community.

While it is said that words cannot hurt, the majority-ruled General Assembly's resolutions and speeches can and do hurt free peoples. As reporter Claudia Rosett poignantly observes:

"What may appear to an American audience as irrelevant and even tedious theater is anything but harmless. The speeches on that U.N. stage are not, as a rule, meant for Americans, nor even for the multilateral audience in the chamber. Especially amongst repressive regimes, they are beamed to home countries and regional neighbors as evidence of the dignity and respect enjoyed by these governments at the world's leading conclave of nations. They feature as one more blow to the courageous Burmese monks, the hungry North Koreans, the desperate opposition in Zimbabwe, and the democrats who risk prison when they raise their voices in places such as Syria and Iran."

This holds true at the U.N. Security Council and its Human Rights Councils, from which a few bitter vignettes painted an abhorrent portrait.

The U.N.'s Permanent Security Council includes a nuclear armed communist China and an increasingly authoritarian Russia. Their unsettling synergy of interests and actions on this body ominously echoes the heights of their Cold War cooperation.

Consider: Despite over a decade of U.S. protestations, communist China and Putin's Russia are the top exporters of nuclear technology, chemical weapons, precursors and guided missiles to Iran. In 2004, the U.S.-China Security and Review Commission declared, "Chinese entities continue to assist Iran with dual-use missile-related items, raw materials, and chemical weapons-related technology"; and further noted that these transfers took place after the communist Chinese Government's 2003 pledge to withhold missile technology from the Iranian regime.

Looking at the U.N. Human Rights Council, some members are more suited to a rogue's gallery than a roster of righteous nations. Soon, the U.N. will enthrone as arbiters of human rights regimes like communist China, communist Cuba, Putin's Russia, and Saudi Arabia. Only the U.N. would put oppressed people's hopes in such blood-stained hands.

Our association with this insanity exacts a steep price. Since 1945, the United States has been the U.N.'s largest annual contributor. In 2006, American taxpayers forked over \$423.5 million in dues, or 22 percent of the U.N.'s regular budget, and over \$5.3 billion in total funds to the United Nations. Nevertheless, the U.S. and all other free nations remain the targets of the U.N.'s member regimes' internal intrigues and corrupt practices.

Two statistics define this function. Only 46 percent of the U.N.'s members are free nations. All of the top 10 financial contributors to the U.N. are free nations.

In a crystalline instant are the U.N.'s symptoms manifest, its disease diagnosed, and its prognosis shameful: The U.N. is a global Tammany Hall lethal to the liberty and dignity of our human family.

In our time, we face challenges equivalent to those posed to President Truman. Once more, the United States and the entire free world face a global, generational war for freedom against vicious enemies bent upon our destruction. To win, our devotion to liberty must transcend their obsession with death. This cannot be accomplished by fecklessly continuing to rely upon a debauched U.N. for our collective security.

Recall Truman: "It must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures."

So, it remains in our global age, wherein a world convinced by an Internet cannot endure half slave and half free. Our survival at stake, all free nations must prudently diminish their participation in a debased U.N., and unite in the cause of human dignity and liberty. Encircled at the U.N., we have no more time to entreat with wolves in our midst. Best we hold them at bay in their lair, and forge a course for the world's new birth of freedom.

Our new course is a Liberty Alliance. Similar to the Community of Democracies, which could be transformed into this more focused and potent international organization for freedom, the Liberty Alliance must be founded upon the self-evident truth, all human beings are endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and, it must be steeped in the wisdom that extending liberty to the the enslaved will ensure liberty for ourselves.

The Liberty Alliance must be composed of free nations dedicated to expanding human liberty to peoples yet free. Member nations must meet a mutually agreed-upon criteria of human and civil rights. Observer nations must be domestically expanding their people's liberty and, upon attaining the agreed-upon criteria for membership, shall be admitted into the Alliance. Importantly, member nations which diminish their people's liberty beyond the agreed-upon criteria, must be demoted to observer status and, when necessary, expelled from the Alliance.

The governing structure of the Liberty Alliance shall be determined by its member nations, with the objective being the maximization of transparency, equity, and democracy in accordance with the effective expansion of human liberty and dignity. In accordance with Truman's doctrine, the Alliance "must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their

own way." Ergo, the Alliance's emphasis must be upon liberty, wherein human beings individually and communally shape the nature, form, and functions of their representative institutions, not upon abstract notions of uniformity, like western democracy or democratic capitalism, presumptuous and too often destabilizing impositions upon peoples trying to seize their freedom and shape their destinies as they deem fit.

Heeding Truman's assessment, "The seeds of totalitarian strife are nurtured by misery and want, poverty and strife, and reach their growth when the hope of a people for a better life has died." In order to foster liberty, the Alliance must advance human liberty and dignity through diplomatic, political, economic, and cultural initiatives aimed at empowering and emancipating the individual, their communities, and their emerging democratic governments from dictatorial rule. The Alliance must not have a military component. But member and observer nations will retain their powers to continue or commence security agreements with other free countries through bilateral and multilateral treaties. Never must any member or observer nation's rights be infringed upon by the Alliance.

Now, two sanguine hopes. The U.S. must lead the establishment of the Liberty Alliance; and, secondly, the Liberty Alliance's headquarters shall be sited on the free soil once scarred colonialism, communism, fascism, world wars, and the Holocaust. I speak of Eastern Europe, where, cradled in the intrepid human spirit, liberty's lamp triumphantly pierced these benighted recesses of evil.

In heralding the Liberty Alliance, we do not invite the free world to exit the U.N. Especially by participating in a democracy caucus, the United States and all free nations should remain in the U.N. to advance or defend liberty by keeping her enemies close. But we must not be so mad as to continue paying through the nose to be kicked in our assets.

So, a simple proposal. No free nation will pay more to the U.N. than does it lowest paying tyrants, like North Korea and Burma, who contribute only \$170,660, or 1/100 percent of the U.N.'s regular budget. Free nations' monies and personnel spared from the U.N. shall be dedicated to the Liberty Alliance or returned to taxpayers.

□ 1715

Doubtless, discombobulated global sophisticates will decry the Liberty Alliance as undesirable and/or impossible. They are overwrought and best ignored. For as we know: "The day is short; the task is great." But we will not withdraw from it. The United States and all free peoples are cemented and steeled by the harmonic bonds of liberty, comity, and duty. Like Harry Truman and the greatest generations of both our nations, to date, we will not bend, we will not

break in our reasoned faith in a future graced by free nations. "We (will) keep that hope alive."

Toiling our way up to that day, may God grant all free peoples the strength to be as He in Marie Syrkin's verse, "The Strongest":

"I'll be the strongest amid you, not lightning, stream or mountain blue, but dew that falling to the Earth gives birth.

"I'll be the strongest in my hour, and lofty tree and quiet flower will both drink gratefully from me.

"I'll be the strongest in the land. I'll be the word that heals, the hand that unseen and still, as from above, gives love."

Mr. Speaker, may it be. And may God continue to grace, guard, guide and bless the people of the United States and our entire human family.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. McNULTY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today after 11:30 a.m. on account of family reasons.

Mr. HELLER of Nevada (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons for a family event.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons due to family matters.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LARSON of Connecticut) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SNYDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CLARKE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. RAMSTAD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, December 20.
Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, December 20.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KING of Iowa, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's

table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2271. An act to authorize State and local governments to divest assets in companies that conduct business operations in Sudan, to prohibit United States Government contracts with such companies, and for other purposes, to the Committee on Financial Services; in addition, to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and to the Committee on Education and Labor for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4343. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify age standards for pilots engaged in commercial aviation operations.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 17, 2007, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

OATH OF OFFICE—MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 110th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

ROBERT E. LATTI, Ohio, Fifth.

ROBERT J. WITTMAN, Virginia, First.

OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Members executed the oath for access to classified information:

Neil Abercrombie, Gary L. Ackerman, Robert B. Aderholt, W. Todd Akin, Rodney Alexander, Thomas H. Allen, Jason Altmire, Robert E. Andrews, Michael A. Arcuri, Joe Baca, Michele Bachmann, Spencer Bachus, Brian Baird, Richard H. Baker, Tammy Baldwin, J. Gresham Barrett, John Barrow, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Joe Barton, Melissa L. Bean, Xavier Becerra, Shelley Berkley, Howard L. Berman, Marion Berry, Judy Biggert, Brian P. Bilbray, Gus M. Bilirakis, Rob Bishop, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Timothy H. Bishop, Marsha Blackburn, Earl Blumenauer, Roy Blunt, John A. Boehner, Jo Bonner, Mary Bono, John Boozman, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Dan Boren, Leonard L. Boswell, Rick Boucher, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Allen Boyd, Nancy E. Boyda, Kevin Brady, Robert A. Brady, Bruce L. Braley, Paul C. Broun, Corrine Brown, Henry E. Brown, Jr., Ginny Brown-Waite, Vern Buchanan, Michael C. Burgess, Dan Burton, G. K. Butterfield, Steve Buyer, Ken Calvert, Dave Camp, John Campbell, Chris Cannon, Eric Cantor, Shelley Moore Capito, Lois Capps, Michael E. Capuano, Dennis A. Cardoza, Russ Carnahan, Christopher P. Carney, Julia Carson, John R. Carter, Michael N. Castle, Kathy Castor, Steve Chabot, Ben Chandler, Donna M. Christensen, Yvette D. Clarke, Wm. Lacy Clay, Emanuel Cleaver, James E. Clyburn, Howard Coble, Steve Cohen, Tom Cole, K. Michael Conaway, John Conyers, Jr., Jim Cooper, Jim Costa, Jerry F. Costello, Joe Courtney, Robert E. (Bud) Cramer, Jr., Ander Crenshaw, Joseph Crowley, Barbara Cubin, Henry Cuellar, John Abney Culberson, Elijah E. Cummings, Artur Davis, Danny K. Davis, David Davis, Geoff Davis, Jo Ann Davis, Lincoln Davis, Susan A. Davis, Tom Davis, Nathan Deal, Peter A. DeFazio, Diana DeGette, William D. Delahunt, Rosa L. DeLauro, Charles W. Dent, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Mario Diaz-Balart, Norman D. Dicks, John D. Dingell, Lloyd Doggett, Joe Donnelly, John T. Doolittle, Michael F. Doyle, Thelma D. Drake, David Dreier, John J. Duncan, Jr., Chet Edwards, Vernon J. Ehlers, Keith Ellison, Brad Ellsworth, Rahm Emanuel, Jo Ann Emerson, Elliot L. Engel, Phil English, Anna G. Eshoo, Bob Etheridge, Terry Everett, Eni F. H. Faleomavaega, Mary Fallin, Sam Farr, Chaka Fattah, Tom Feeney, Mike Ferguson, Bob Filner, Jeff Flake, J. Randy Forbes, Jeff Fortenberry, Luis G. Fortuño, Vito Fossella, Virginia Foxx, Barney Frank, Trent Franks, Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Elton Gallegly, Scott Garrett, Jim Gerlach, Gabrielle Giffords, Wayne T. Gilchrest, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Paul E. Gillmor, Phil Gingrey, Louie Gohmert, Charles A. Gonzalez, Virgil H. Goode, Jr., Bob Goodlatte, Bart Gordon, Kay Granger, Sam Graves, Al Green, Gene Green, Raúl M. Grijalva, Luis V. Gutierrez, John J. Hall, Ralph M. Hall, Phil Hare, Jane Harman, J. Dennis Hastert, Alcee L. Hastings, Doc Hastings, Robin Hayes, Dean Heller, Jeb Hensarling, Wally Herger, Stephanie Herseth, Brian Higgins, Baron P. Hill, Maurice D. Hinchey, Ruben Hinojosa, Mazie Hirono, David L. Hobson, Paul W. Hodes, Peter Hoekstra, Tim Holden, Rush D. Holt, Michael M. Honda, Darlene Hooley, Steny H. Hoyer, Kenny C. Hulshof, Duncan Hunter, Bob Inglis, Jay Inslee, Steve Israel, Darrell E. Issa, Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., Sheila Jackson-Lee, William J. Jefferson, Bobby Jindal, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., Sam Johnson, Timothy V. Johnson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Walter B. Jones, Jim Jordan, Steve Kagen, Paul E. Kanjorski, Marcy Kaptur, Ric Keller, Patrick J. Kennedy, Dale E. Kildee, Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Ron Kind, Peter T. King, Steve King, Jack Kingston, Mark Steven Kirk, Ron Klein, John Kline, Joe Knollenberg, John R. "Randy" Kuhl, Jr., Ray LaHood, Doug